

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

April 5, 2016

Proclaiming April 16, 2016 as Citizen Science Day in Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County (County) is quickly establishing itself as a center for bioscience research and development, but it has long been considered as the hotspot for biodiversity given its unique climate, topography, and size. There is much more yet to explore and be discovered in the County's wildlife, nature and ecosystem, and there is a move to engage the residents of the County to become involved in such discoveries.

On April 14, 2016, the County's Natural History Museum (NHM) will be launching its new biodiversity project called the Urban Nature Research Center (UNRC), which will catalogue and research Los Angeles' nature through a collaboration of career scientists and "citizen scientists", who are volunteers that monitor and network about science. Through the UNRC, scientists will collaborate on research projects and peer-reviewed scholarly papers, and will engage these citizen scientists who will record wildlife in their backyards, neighborhoods, and schoolyards.

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The Citizen Science Super Project will combine projects and initiatives such as the BioSCAN Project, Reptiles and Amphibians of Southern California project, Snails and Slugs Living in Metropolitan Environments project, and the Southern California Squirrel Survey, and sites will be located from the coast all the way to the Inland Empire. NHM's Citizens Science Department will provide training to the citizen scientist cadre, which will be kicked off on the first nationwide Citizen Science Day on April 16, 2016, in conjunction with the National Science & Engineering Festival in Washington, D.C. Through the coordination of Citizen Science Association, Citizen Science Day will be celebrated with a series of citizen science "open houses" and activities to be locally-sponsored by science centers, museums, libraries, universities and schools, and federal agencies around the country.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim April 16, 2016 as "Citizen Science Day" in Los Angeles County as part of the Natural History Museum's Urban Nature Research Center biodiversity project which will launch on April 14, 2016, and encourage all residents to participate.

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(RT/CB)